EXHIBIT A

Pending Claims in Application No. 09/837,998 as of September 12, 2002

1. An expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus with reduced pathogenicity in an animal host which comprises an E3L gene having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression of said exogenous DNA.

2. The expression vector of claim 1 wherein said exogenous DNA encodes an antigen.

3. The expression vector of claim 1 in which one or more non-essential virus-encoded gene functions have been deleted from the vaccinia virus.

4. A composition comprising the expression vector of claim 1 and a carrier.

5. A method of making a recombinant gene product comprising subjecting an expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus with reduced pathogenicity in an animal host which comprises an E3L gene having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product and wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA that encodes said recombinant gene product operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression thereof, to conditions whereby said recombinant gene product is expressed.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising recovering said recombinant gene product.